

INTELLOFAX

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 24 NOV 50

SUBJECT Trepca Lead, Zinc and Silver Mine

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Trepca lead, zinc and silver mine is divided into two separate parts; the mine, situated near Stari Trg, approximately 7.5 kilometers northeast of Zvecan, and the smelting plant, located near Zvecan. The mine is located in a gorge between two mountains which are rugged in character and considerably eroded. Communications in this area are extremely difficult. The mine is administered by a director general who is appointed by and directly responsible to the General Directorate for Colored Metals of the Serbian Republic in Belgrade.
2. The planned annual output figures are as follows:
 - 1949 - 655,000 tons
 - 1950 - 700,000 tons
3. Actual output:
 - a. Although the actual output for 1949 was 660,000 tons of ore, the average mean lead and silver content has decreased to 6 percent and 90 grams per ton respectively, while the zinc content was 3.9 percent. This indicates that the ore deposits were not accurately surveyed, and the estimates of the metallic content were incorrect.
 - b. The actual mining conditions make it possible to produce up to 2,300 tons of ore per day or 59,000 tons per month, working on three 8-hour shifts daily. Working on the basis of 310 working days a year it would be possible to produce 713,000 tons of ore in 1950.
 - c. The annual output of lead from the smelting plant in 1949 was 45,000 tons.
4. Disposal of output: The ore is first of all submitted to the pulverizer at the mine itself and then transported by the overhead cable railway to the smelting plant at Zvecan. Here it goes through flotation, agglomeration and roasting processes, emerging as concentrates of lead, pyrites and zinc, together with silver, bismuth and antimony as subsidiary products. Most of the output is exported abroad.

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5. Ore reserves: The ore reserves are divided into three categories based on an official circular of Soviet origin, published and distributed by the Ministry of Mines in Belgrade. The categories, applicable to all mines in Yugoslavia, are as follows:

a. Category A, subdivided into:

Category A-1: Deposits which have been accurately surveyed and through preliminary workings are ready for mining.

Category A-2: Deposits whose shape and size are accurately known and which are more or less accessible but which have not been prepared for mining.

Category B: Deposits whose rough shape has been established through research and initial drillings.

Category C: Covers reserves estimated according to geological indications.

b. Quantities

Category A: 3,700,000 tons, with average mean content of:
Lead - 7.5 percent
Zinc - 4.7 percent
Silver - 125 grams per ton

Category B: 2,100,000 tons, with average mean content of:
Lead - 7 percent
Zinc - 3.2 percent
Silver - 100 grams per ton

Category C: 4,300,000 tons, with average mean content of:
Lead - 5 percent
Zinc - 2.3 percent
Silver - 80 grams per ton

6. Factors limiting output

- a. The 1950 norm will not be fulfilled unless additional equipment and materials are supplied to the mine. Especially serious is the shortage of boring machines, rails and other materials.
- b. The present number of workers is inadequate and additional labor will have to be employed if the 1950 target is to be reached.
- c. The average metallic content of the ore is gradually decreasing as the depth increases.

7. The mine has its own thermo-electric power station, which supplies current to the smelting plant and to the Trepca mine, as well as to the Kopaonik and Novo Brdo mines. The power station is situated at Zvecan and is equipped with two turbines of 2,500 horsepower each, and one of 5,000 horsepower. They are of AEG and ACEA manufacture and are directly connected with alternators, producing three-phased current of 3,000 volts which is reduced to 400 volts for driving the machinery in the smelting plant and mines. The boilers burn lignite which is imported from the Kosovo lignite mine.

8. Machinery and equipment

- a. The mine has a total of 400 drilling machines, of which 100 are in good condition. They weigh between 60 and 90 kilograms and have boring tips of 32 mm. diameter. They are of Sullivan, Ingersoll Rand and Chicago Pneumatic manufacture, and have water jet attachments which function as dust suppressors.

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- b. An unknown number of pick hammers imported mostly from England and Germany.
 - c. The main pumping station is installed on the sixth level, and has a capacity of 18 cubic meters per hour. It pumps water to the first level, a height of 235 meters. In addition there are six pumps of unknown origin, with a capacity of 15 cubic meters per hour each.
 - d. One winding machine is installed on the first level and is used for raising loaded skips from the fifth and sixth levels to the first. This machine is powered by an electric motor of 400 horsepower. The whole system is capable of lifting a load of up to four tons. There is no winding tower above the ground, but the cable is guided along a system of pulleys to a second winding machine which is mounted in a reinforced concrete building situated on the side of the mountain. This is also electrically driven by a motor developing 700 horsepower.
 - e. The mine has a number of Sullivan steam powered hoists, each capable of lifting up to 1,000 kilograms.
 - f. The mine has approximately 300 tip cars and 500 other types of mine cars with capacities varying between 800 and 1,000 kilograms. There are 14 battery power/electric locomotives of German origin.
 - g. Near the mine there are two conical crushers with a capacity of 50 cubic meters per hour. In addition there are eight pairs of cylindrical crushers, approximately twelve ball mills, and an extensive steel cable transport system which is in particularly bad condition because of the shortage of spare parts.
 - h. The overhead cable railway which connects the mine with the smelting plant at Zvecan is seven kilometers long and has a maximum capacity of 5,000 tons per day. It was supplied by the German firm of Bleichert and is in good condition.
 - i. The smelting plant was enlarged by the Germans during the war and is in good condition. The equipment includes two plants for agglomerating the lead concentrate with coke, nine Neumann table furnaces for processing the agglomerate and two "high" furnaces for silver extraction. The maximum capacity of the Neumann ovens is 170 tons of lead per 24 hours.
 - j. There are three separate batteries of flotators in the flotation plant.
9. The total number of mine employees is 8,800, of whom 700 are women and 400 forced laborers who work in Zvecan.
10. Working conditions
- a. The mine and the flotation and smelting plants work 24 hours a day, on three 8-hour shifts. Other services work only by day. In the first shift there are approximately 5,000 workers, while the second and third have approximately 1,500 each.
 - b. The working week should consist of six days, but owing to directives issued by the Communist Party and the Ministry of Mines in Belgrade, the workers are not allowed more than two free Sundays per month.
 - c. Wages and salaries should be paid monthly according to the normal system, but, in actual fact, are paid at irregular intervals. This, together with the lack of recreational facilities, has resulted in an inadequate supply of free labor.
11. The mine area, as well as the mine itself, is surrounded by barbed wire. There are two separate iron gates giving entrance to the mine area, one of which is used by both workers and vehicles, while the other is used by workers only. Both are guarded by the Mine Militia. In addition the Militia also patrols the entire area both day and night. The patrols are doubled during the night.

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12. Personalities

- a. Branko Petrovic : Deputy director of the mine. An ardent Communist. Unintelligent, extremely ambitious, dishonest and is generally known as an eager denouncer.
- b. Vojin Stojasavljevic : Chief engineer. A renowned Communist and a Party member. Untrustworthy. An extremely ambitious opportunist.
- c. Boris Sacharov : Engineer. White Russian born in the Caucasus about 1905. Entered Yugoslavia in 1920. He is dangerously anti-Communist, and was retained in his present post purely because he is indispensable. An extremely efficient and qualified engineer. His wife lives in Belgium.

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Comment: Maps and legends of the Trepca mine and smelting plant are available in CIA Library upon request.